

James River

National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator John W. Warner (R)
Senator George F. Allen (R)
Rep. Bobby Scott (D-3rd)

Contact

Joe McCauley, Refuge Manager
Eastern Virginia Rivers National
Wildlife Refuge Complex
P. O. Box 1030
Warsaw, VA 22572
Phone: 804/333 1470
Fax: 804/333 3396
TDD: 800/877 8339
E-mail: fw5rw_evrnwr@fws.gov

Profile

Established:	1991
Current acres:	4,200
Proposed total acres:	4,678
Staff:	.5
FY 2002 budget:	\$665,500*
2002 volunteer hours:	85
2002 visitation:	259

*Managed as the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes James River, Rappahannock River Valley and Presquile NWRs.

Purpose

James River National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect nationally significant habitat for bald eagles.

Public Use Notes

- Access to the refuge is under development. Visitors should contact the refuge manager prior to their visit.
- Hunting for white tailed-deer

Management Activities

- Managing forests to protect and improve bald eagle roosting and nesting habitat
- Managing local deer population through annual hunts

Highlights

Following three decades of successful recovery efforts, the Service recently proposed removing the bald eagle from the federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species.

The refuge contains one of the largest roosting areas for juvenile bald eagles east of the Mississippi River. The refuge also supports several bald eagle nests.

Up to 500 adult and juvenile bald eagles visit the refuge each summer.

Powells Creek and James River are important spawning and nursery sites for alewife, American shad, blueback herring, gizzard shad, hickory shad and striped bass. Bald eagles may feed on American shad spawning in shallow water flats.

Rappahannock River Valley NWR

James River NWR Presquile NWR

Issues

Conflicts have arisen over the differences in hunting regulations between the refuge and neighboring hunt clubs.

Significant historical and cultural resources exist on the refuge, precluding some options for forest management.

Improved forest management is needed to maintain habitat values for bald eagles.

Current staffing is inadequate to conduct habitat management or public use activities.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
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